MASON TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Providing public transit to Mason County and beyond since 1992!!

February 1, 2022

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Mason Transit Awards Vans to Two Local Nonprofits

Agencies that respond to emergency situations will be able to help more people this year, thanks to two donated vans from Mason Transit Authority.

The transit agency selected Mason County Search and Rescue and Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center to receive the two 2006 Ford Econoline 12-passenger vans.

“These groups provide such vital services to the community. We’re pleased to enhance the important work they do, especially in challenging circumstances,” said Amy Asher, Mason Transit general manager.

Mason County Search and Rescue anticipates using its van for nearly 4,200 passenger trips this year. Volunteer search teams will travel to and from search sites, travel to basecamps for emergency assignments and ride together to training sessions. Usually volunteers drive their own vehicles to a search, which could generate 50 cars or more.

The donated van replaces a 1991 transit bus and will tow the group’s new operations trailer. Search and Rescue works closely with the Mason County Sheriff and also will use the van for welfare checks, evidence searches and evacuations.

Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Often half of the residents at the shelter are under age 18. Turning Pointe will use the van to safely transport people to and from the shelter, sometimes in emergency situations. The van also will help staff pick up donations and supplies to benefit residents.

The van gives Turning Pointe the chance to schedule weekly outings for residents—especially youth. Going to the library or nature trails would provide a sense of normalcy residents often aren’t able to experience.

More information on the Van Grant Program can be found at masontransit.org/vangrantprogram

Mike Ringgenberg, Mason Transit operations manager, presents van keys to Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center's executive director Gina Finley and Kate Miller.

Mike Ringgenberg, Mason Transit operations manager, presents van keys to Mason County Search and Rescue president Keenan Kealy and secretary Mark Gardener.

Mason Transit Authority serves the Mason County community and connects with area transit systems including Grays Harbor Transit, Intercity Transit (Thurston County), Jefferson Transit, Kitsap Transit, Squaxin Island Transit and Sound Transit, which in turn provides connections to the ferries, Amtrak and Greyhound service. ***You can go anywhere from here!*** *Mason Transit Authority is a partner in the Health & Safety Commitments Program of The American Public Transportation Association.*